



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**NMFS ANNOUNCES JOINT HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
AND BILLFISH ADVISORY PANEL MEETING AND SOLICITS NOMINATIONS
FOR THE HMS AND BILLFISH ADVISORY PANELS**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will hold a joint meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) and Billfish Advisory Panels (AP) on October 11 - 13, 2005, in Silver Spring, MD (70 FR 53777, September 12, 2005). The intent of this meeting is to consider alternatives for the conservation and management of HMS as presented in the Draft Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan and Proposed Rule.

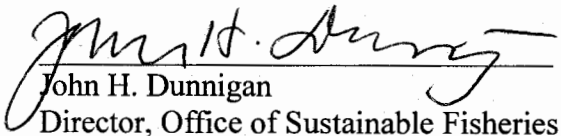
The joint AP meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 8777 Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97), Silver Spring, MD 20910 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Thursday, October 13, 2005. The meeting is open to the public.

Materials related to the joint AP meeting will be made available after September 23, 2005. Please contact Ms. Othel Freeman, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-713-2347, for meeting logistics or materials.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Othel Freeman at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

In addition, NMFS solicits nominations for the HMS AP and the Billfish AP. Nominations must be submitted on or before October 27, 2005.

This fax notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information related to HMS, please contact Ms. Heather Stirratt 301-713-2347 or see the HMS web page at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.


John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

9/12/05
Dated

